

Structuring Inclusivity: South Africa's Path to Peace

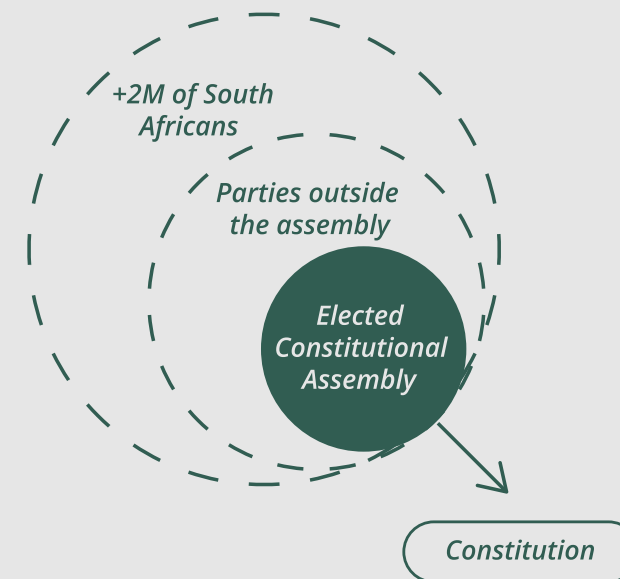
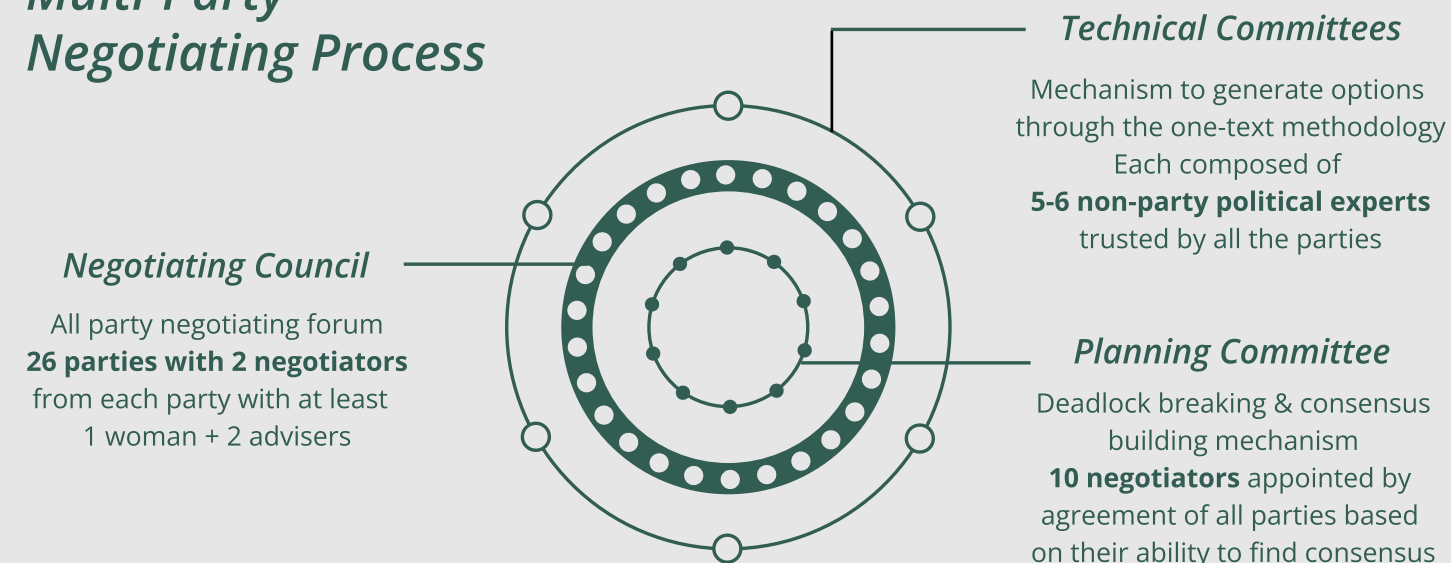
Deep structural problems cannot be solved without a transformation of relationships. And this requires a deliberate focus on process design.

Apartheid left South Africa deeply divided—defined by exclusion and racial domination. A small minority ruled over a majority that was silenced and shut out. The peace process was deliberately designed to change this: to bring all political actors into an inclusive shared political space.

Managing Inclusivity through Structure

The negotiation process brought all political actors to the table. This created complexity. The process was structured to manage it. It introduced self-mediation mechanisms to break deadlocks, to build consensus and move negotiations forward. The negotiations led to a framework agreement endorsed by all the parties

Multi-Party Negotiating Process



Widening Inclusivity & Drafting the Constitution

Following the endorsement of the framework agreement and the first elections, the Constitutional Assembly invited all South Africans to contribute in shaping the final constitution. The result was a Constitution that every South African could trust and see themselves in.

A Process of Transformation: A Self-Mediated Journey

The peace process unfolded in three deliberate stages, each building on the last and giving every political actor and every South African a role and a voice.

1991

The National Peace Accord

Created national, regional, and local structures to manage violence and support dialogue.

1994

Multi-Party Negotiation Process

Negotiated the framework for a new democratic South Africa and led to the first democratic elections.

1996

The Constitutional Assembly

Negotiated through the Constitutional Assembly with input from millions of South Africans.

South Africa's process was more than a negotiation. It was a process of self-mediation that structured inclusivity and transformed relationships, becoming a lasting symbol of South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy.

